

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:
 - receiving via a wireless communication network, a push-to-talk initialization request from a calling handset, the request identifying a recipient handset;
 - translating the push-to-talk request into a an announce message;
 - addressing the announce message to the recipient handset; and
 - broadcasting the announce message over the wireless communication network, wherein the announce message is transmitted over a plurality of base stations.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the broadcasting step further comprises sending the announce message in a control channel.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the control channel is a forward common control channel.
5. The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement message in response to the announce message.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the acknowledgement message is received in a control channel.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.

8. A system for initializing a push-to-talk call over a wireless communication network, comprising:
 - a target handset configured for over the air communication in a wireless communication network;
 - a plurality of base stations configured to communicate over the air with the target handset, wherein a push-to-talk announce message is broadcast to the target handset over the plurality of base stations.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the wireless communication network is a code division multiple access network.
10. The system of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of control channels in the wireless communication network, wherein the push-to-talk announce message is broadcast to the target handset in a forward common control channel.
11. The system of claim 8, further comprising a push-to-talk server, wherein the push-to-talk server initiates the push-to-talk announce message.
12. The system of claim 8, wherein a first base station receives an acknowledgement message from the target handset in response to the announce message.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the acknowledgement message is received by the first base station in a control channel.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the control channel is a reverse enhanced access channel.